

Message

What you need to know to start your day.

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**To:** Duffy, Rick  
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**Subject:** First Move: California  
Governor to Release  
Wildfire-Utility Report

**Bloomberg  
Environment**

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## California Governor to Release Wildfire-Utility Report



By [Chuck McCutcheon](#)

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) is expected today to release a much-anticipated series of policy options to help the state and utilities deal with wildfires and protect themselves from liability.

- Newsom gave a team of advisers two months to develop a report in response to PG&E's wildfire-driven bankruptcy and credit-rating downgrades of Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric because of wildfire-liability concerns.
- Newsom is planning to raise the idea of an [insurance fund](#) that utilities could use to cover fire damages. The companies have been pressing lawmakers to establish a fund to help defray their costs.

## FEW GREEN RETIREMENT PROBE TARGETS

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President Trump's recent executive order calling for a look at whether socially conscious investing is harming retirees could be its own waste of energy, financial industry participants told Bloomberg Law.

- Trump's order required the Labor Department to look into whether retirement funds moving money out of energy investments are violating responsibilities to shareholders.
- The Government Accountability Office's 2018 study on investing that relates to environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) calculated that less than one in 10 retirement plans offer the specialty category—and just 3 percent of those presented with the option chose to invest in financial packages that take environmental or social causes into account. The Plan Sponsor Council of America's annual survey, which covers retirement plans that managed \$28.2 trillion in assets in 2017, found that 4 percent of respondents offered ESG-related stocks.

## OREGON'S WALDEN SEEN AS CLIMATE DEALMAKER

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Oregon Rep. Greg Walden (R) is seen by fellow House Republicans as a bellwether for potential compromise with Democrats on climate change, Dean Scott writes.



Rep. Greg Walden (R-Ore.)  
Photographer: Ethan Miller/Getty Images

- “If Greg Walden gets a deal and puts his name on something, then things move very quickly after that,” former Florida GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo said. Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) said Walden's background as past head of the House GOP's campaign arm has earned him wide respect among Republican colleagues.
- Walden, the Energy and Commerce Committee's top Republican, is interested in adding incentives for advanced energy innovation, such as new battery technologies to store excess power from wind, solar and other

renewable sources, to be used when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining. He's also a proponent of small modular nuclear reactors.

## WHAT ELSE WE'RE WATCHING

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- Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell filed cloture on William Cooper's [nomination](#) as the Energy Department's general counsel, with a vote scheduled for April 29.
- The National Coal Council [continues](#) its two-day meeting, with presentations from Energy Under Secretary Mark Menezes and Seth Schwartz, president of consulting firm Energy Ventures Analysis.
- EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler visits Kentucky to promote food waste reduction at an event in Lexington and take part in a roundtable with agriculture leaders and farmers in nearby Georgetown.

## DAILY RUNDOWN

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### Top Stories

#### [Senate Confirms David Bernhardt to Lead Interior Department](#)

The Senate confirmed David Bernhardt to be secretary of the Interior, putting a former energy and natural resources lobbyist in charge of the agency that oversees drilling, grazing, and other activities on public land and in federal waters.

#### [Senate Energy Panel Duo Wants to Craft Carbon Capture 'Moonshot'](#)

The Energy Department's carbon capture research programs could undergo a major tuneup if the Senate energy committee's bipartisan duo has its way.

### Energy

#### [Uranium Miners Preparing for Trump to Order Quotas for U.S. Ore](#)

Two small U.S. uranium producers feel confident enough of having convinced the Trump administration to impose limits on imports of the radioactive metal that they've begun expanding their mines.

#### [Dominion Gas Project's Downstream Climate Impacts Get Hearing](#)

Federal energy regulators defended their decision to exclude an assessment of a pipeline project's upstream and downstream environmental impacts, telling a federal court they weren't warranted under the law because the scope of the work was too small and hard to quantify.

## Environment

### Trump is 'Fair-Weather Federalist' on Environment, Critics Say

President Donald Trump's new executive orders to streamline oil and gas pipeline projects could strip states of some authority on water and energy issues, leading some to question whether the administration's oft-stated "cooperative federalism" principle is actually "convenient federalism" or "fair-weather federalism."

### U.S. Agriculture Secretary Blasts Vietnam Over Glyphosate Ban

Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Vietnam's decision to ban glyphosate-based weedkillers will harm agriculture globally.

### EPA Gives GE Nod on Hudson River Cleanup—For Now

General Electric Co. got a long-awaited decision from the EPA that the company has finished its cleanup of chemical contamination of the Hudson River—for now.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

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- **All Day • Energy** • Chicago Booth's Energy Forward 2019 conference examines trends and opportunities defining the energy markets.
- **Noon • Sustainability** • Coalition for Urban Transitions holds forum on investing in a sustainable urban future.
- **Noon • Natural Gas** • Johns Hopkins' energy and environment program hosts forum on the future of natural gas in the transportation sector.

## AROUND THE WEB

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- The Clean Air Act Scientific Advisory Committee renewed calls in a letter to EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to reinstate an ad hoc expert panel to help with reviewing national air quality standards for particulate matter. Wheeler disbanded the panel last October. He offered a public defense of his decision last week, saying the panels were hindering the EPA's ability to meet its deadlines.
- Two Democratic House members and two Democratic senators introduced legislation intended to protect military homes and schools from lead poisoning.
- Ten current and former Montana Public Service Commissioners are urging state lawmakers to reject a bill that would allow NorthWestern Energy to buy a share of a coal-fired power plant without commission oversight.

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